

(Begin Belt #1)

March 21, 1974

PRESIDENT: Will the Legislature please come to order. We'll have prayer by Reverend Hezmall.

REVEREND HEZMALL: Gave prayer.

PRESIDENT: Roll Call. Please indicate your presence. Once again, have you all indicated your presence? Clerk will record.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President. Mr. President, Senator Frank Lewis asked to be excused until he arrives.

PRESIDENT: Are there objections? Hearing none, so ordered. Senator Waldron, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Luedtke a question this morning.

PRESIDENT: Senator Luedtke, do you yield to a question?

SENATOR WALDRON: Senator Luedtke, are you well aware of, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, are you aware of the problem that's facing this country today and probably this state today in regard to the kidnapping situation where anyone of stature or anyone of wealth is obviously in a dangerous position today? Could you tell me on LB8, what are the provisions we are going to provide for kidnappers in case a death occurs?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, there's no...I can answer that...there's no provision yet in LB8 but I understand there have been overs in this Body, Senator Waldron, who have the same kind of concern that you express with it. And, of course, the federal government is already working on it again such as getting back to the type of a Lindburgh kidnapping law making the death penalty mandatory with which there was some constitutional problems I understand with that. But we are...we are...we have been working with that. But the bill as it now stands does not provide for the death penalty if that's what you're asking.

SENATOR WALDRON: What about our present law?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Present law does not.

SENATOR WALDRON: Well, Senator Luedtke, then could I ask you that you prepare an amendment that will require the death penalty on LB8 until we can expedite LB8 or some other bill to require the death penalty in case there is a death resulting from a kidnapping. Because this has become a serious charge or a serious problem in this country and we have to do something to deter these kidnappings. Will you do that, Senator?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I think, Senator, I'm not sure...not too sure but I think Senator DeCamp has already prepared or is preparing...Senator DeCamp, would you like to answer that?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, yes I have....excuse me.... I have such an amendment prepared and it's still too early in the morning to start the campaigns so why don't we get down to business?

PRESIDENT: All right, thank you, gentlemen.